

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 207970

ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-02 SIG-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CPR-01 /089 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:NTSHAFT

APPROVED BY S/AB: AMB. D. POPPER

ARA/PPC:NSSMITH

S/AB:WTPRYCE

-----124186 310606Z /13 15

R 310037Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 207970

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PDIP, OAS, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATIES- BRIEFING FOR AMBASSADORS

1. ON AUGUST 29 AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ CONDUCTED A BRIEFING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES FOR ALL AMBASSADORS FROM ARA COUNTRIES AND CANADA ACCREDITED TO THE WHITE HOUSE OR OAS. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADORS LEWIS (WHITE HOUSE) AND PITY (OAS) SHARED THE HEAD TABLE AS DID OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND AMBASSADOR POPPER. THERE WAS A GOOD TURNOUT OF THOSE INVITED BUT SURPRISINGLY FEW QUESTIONS FROM THEM WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE.

2. MOST QUESTIONS CONCERNED THE NEUTRALITY TREATY. IT WAS CLARIFIED THAT NO REPEAT NO GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL TO THIS TREATY ON SEPTEMBER 7 BUT THAT EVENTUALLY IT WILL BE OPEN FOR SIGNATURE BY ALL COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES TO THE TREATY, PANAMA AND THE U.S., ARE STATED ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND ARE NOT SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL. SIGNATORIES OF THE PROTOCOL WILL NOT ASSUME RIGHTS OR OBLIGATIONS BUT WILL SIGNIFY GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 207970

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3. AMBASSADOR LEWIS SPOKE BRIEFLY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE U.S. PRESENTATION. ON BEHALF OF GENERAL TORRIJOS, HE THANKED THE ASSEMBLED AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. WITHOUT LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY, HE SAID, THERE WOULD BE NO TREATY.

4. AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, MADE A SHORT STATEMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, CANALS, BRIEFINGS, AMBASSADORS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009